

Technical Definitions

Revised September 2014

Baccalaureate	A four-year degree that is also commonly called a bachelor's degree.
Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP)	A number used by the federal government to identify an academic program or major. Similar majors tend to fall under the same first two numbers within a CIP.
Distance Learning	When someone completes coursework away from an actual school campus, it is generally called distance learning. This is an umbrella term for many types of learning, including online classes and classes available through the mail. Many distance learning programs are connected to traditional schools, others exist independently.
Dual Credit	Dual credit students receive credit at both the high school and college levels.
EEO Categories	Categories designated by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for grouping employment positions based on the job function and level of autonomy. The categories include executive / administrative / managerial, faculty, other professionals, clerical/secretarial, technical/paraprofessional, skilled crafts, and service/maintenance.
Expenditures	The costs incurred for goods and services used in the conduct of the institution's operations.
First-Time Student	A student who enters a college or university as their first traditional higher education experience. This does not include students who are still enrolled in high school and take dual credit postsecondary courses.
First-time Transfer	A certificate-, diploma-, or degree-seeking student entering the reporting institution for the first time but known to have previously attended a postsecondary institution at the same level (e.g., technical, undergraduate, graduate). The student may transfer with or without credit.
Full-Time Equivalency (FTE):	<p>The full-time equivalent (FTE) of students is a single value providing a meaningful combination of full time and part time students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>CPE calculates FTE using the following formula: $FTE = (undergraduate\ student\ credit\ hours/15) + (graduate\ SCH/12) + (law\ SCH/12) + (headcount\ of\ medical,\ dental,\ and\ pharmacy\ students) + (headcount\ of\ doctoral\ dissertation\ students) + (headcount\ of\ post-doctoral\ students) + (headcount\ of\ house\ staff)$</i>
General Education Development (GED)	Exam series that, upon completion, is considered to be equivalent to a high school diploma.
Graduation Rate	The proportion of students who enter as first-time, full-time degree-seeking students in a given summer or fall who also earn a credential within 150 percent of the time normally needed to complete the degree. For example: bachelor's degree graduation rates are calculated over six years, associate's degrees are calculated over three years.
Independent Institutions	Institutions that are solely funded by tuition or through private sources. Many tables include only those schools that are member institutions of the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities. Other independent institutions include proprietary (for-profit) institutions, two-year occupational institutions, bible colleges, and seminaries.

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Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)	IPEDS consists of institution-level data that can be used to describe trends in postsecondary education at the institution, state and/or national levels. It is a single, comprehensive system that encompasses all identified institutions whose primary purpose is to provide postsecondary education.
Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS)	Kentucky's system of two-year public community and technical colleges.
Kentucky Educational Television (KET)	KET College Courses is a partnership between KET and Kentucky colleges that allows students to earn college credit through the use of technology despite their busy schedules and active lives.
Kentucky Virtual Campus (KYVC)	The Kentucky Virtual Campus (KYVC), created with passage of the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997, plays a critical role as a statewide advocate for access to learning through technology, a convener of partners that use resources effectively, and a catalyst for innovation and excellence in eLearning.
Level	Postsecondary educational level is defined as simply undergraduate, graduate, or first-professional, or by the credential being sought including certificates, diplomas, associate's degrees, bachelor's degrees, etc.
Matriculation	Successfully moving from one level of education to another, such as completing a high school diploma or GED and matriculating to a college, or completing a two-year degree and matriculating to a university to work on a four-year degree.
Mode of Delivery	Manner in which the course is presented, such as: KET, World Wide Web, etc.
Native Student	A student who began their undergraduate study at one institution and has stayed at that institution for the duration of their undergraduate study.
Nonresident Alien	A person who has not been admitted to the United States for permanent residence (e.g. international students).
Persistence	Continued enrollment of students as they work toward completing a credential.
Poverty Rate	The percentage of the population whose family income falls below federally-determined poverty thresholds.
Public Institutions	Four-year and KCTCS two-year postsecondary institutions that are funded through legislative appropriations.
Reciprocity	State tuition reciprocity agreements are arrangements between two or more states where the citizens of a defined region in one state can enroll at identified institutions or selected programs in another state and vice versa for a reduced tuition charge and also may receive special treatment for admission purposes.

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Remedial or Developmental	Students are identified as remedial or developmental if their standardized placement test scores or equivalents fall below the threshold identified for a performance level likely to allow them to be successful in college level courses in a particular area.
Residency	For tuition purposes, students are classified as in-state or out-of-state.
Retention	The proportion of first-time postsecondary students who enter a public Kentucky institution in a given fall semester and return to any Kentucky institution the following fall semester.
Revenue	Revenue includes (1) all unrestricted gifts, grants, and other resources earned during the reporting period and (2) restricted resources to the extent that such funds were expended.
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)	Student majors or degrees that fall under the federal Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) list of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs based on their federal Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes.
Sector	Identifies institutions based on funding types and the level of degrees offered: two-year public, four-year public, and independent.
Student Credit Hours (SCH):	The number of total credit hours generated by all students in all courses. For example, if two students each enrolled in six hours of courses and another student enrolled in 12 hours of courses, the total SCH would be 24.
Student Enrollment or Headcount:	Student enrollment is expressed as a count of individual students by institution. If a student is enrolled at more than one institution in a given semester, they would be counted at each school and, consequently, counted twice in the overall state total.
Traditional and Nontraditional Ages	Student ages are categorized as traditional or nontraditional depending upon whether they are 24 and under (traditional) or 25 and above (nontraditional).
Transfer Credit Hours	The number of credit hours taken at one institution that are accepted for transfer at a second institution.
Transition	This term generally refers to the successful movement from adult education programs (primarily GED) to postsecondary study.